

**Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MLARP) for Nursing
and Nursing Support Staff Workgroup**

Virtual Meeting

April 24, 2023 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 pm

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Stakeholder Workgroup Attendees Membership Seat Representative

Representative of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East - Joshua Harrold

Representative of the Maryland Hospital Association - Jane Krienke

Representative of the LifeSpan Network - Lesley Flaim

Representative of AFSCME Maryland - Denise Gilmore

Representative of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland - Nicole Lollo

Representative of the Maryland Association of County Health Officers - Jennifer Knapp

Representative of Maryland Board of Nursing - Iman Farid

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff

Sara Seitz

Sadé Diggs

Also in Attendance

Lindsay Rowe (Department of Legislative Services), Amberly Holcomb (Department of Legislative Services)

Notes

I. Opening Business and Remarks

- Some substitute members attended and Sara Seitz gave a brief overview of the workgroup/introduction prior to doing full opening business and roll call.
- The virtual meeting was called to order (3:03 p.m.) by Sara Seitz who provided a brief welcome.
- Each workgroup member introduced themselves to the group during roll call and guests offered a sign in option to the virtual meeting via chat function.
- Meeting minutes from 3/27/2023 presented. Minutes were approved as distributed.
- Check in provided to Workgroup members about access to Google Drive and the tool was noted as the prime space for workgroup meeting items.
- Update regarding MLRP 2023 Application Cycle provided. Application materials received for approximately 300 interested individuals; about half appear to be Nurses at this early review stage. Applications under review for completeness and eligibility. All applicants (for which contact information has been received) will be notified regarding award approval or denial by July 1, 2023, the start of awarded service obligations.

II. Discussion

A. Review of Workgroup Vision for MLARP NNS

- Workgroup's vision for MLARP NNS reviewed:
 1. Be a magnet to Maryland by serving as an incentive/financial barrier removed for individuals who have a desire to work in nursing and nursing support field by:
 - a. Encouraging students and new professionals to practice in-state;
 - b. Improving retention rates and decreasing turnover among veteran nurses and nursing support staff (as turnover has a significant impact on costs to the state and healthcare facilities);
 2. Populate underserved/health professional shortage areas of the state with health care professionals; and
 3. Leverage federal funding resources effectively
- Note from a Workgroup member regarding MHA's point to diversify the pipeline and to encourage to help others that may not otherwise be able to because of finances.
- Also noted "permanent" funding as a key part of the vision.
- A Workgroup member noted faculty and clinical preceptorship keeps coming to mind and would like to discuss how those roles fit into MLARP and current potential funding priorities. MLARP staff responded that this is an area that constituents ask about as well.

B. Review of Workgroup Progress Against Statutory Mandates/ Work Plan

- Sara Seitz presented the mandated activities and their progress while also noting need from Workgroup members for assistance (see Slide presentation).

C. Next Steps/Necessary Research

- The Workgroup discussed the remaining areas of research necessary to continue discussions related to mandated activities and requested research group members work on gathering data/information/resources related to:
 1. Evidence to support potential funding priorities
Lead: Jane Krienke (Nicole Lollo interested in being a member)
 2. Nursing support staff and lpn debt/maryland specific
Lead: Needed, Members needed
 3. funding/resources regarding nursing loan repayment program in other states
Lead: Needed, Members needed
- Sara Seitz will reach out to Workgroup members to get started working on the noted areas to have information available for future meetings and for the General Assembly final report.
- Research groups will be asked to provide an update regarding their gathered information at the May Workgroup meeting; and asked to post data and resources to the Google Share drive by June 1.
- Sara Seitz presented a slide of the work plan and the timeline of presentations/

discussions and post meeting action steps. Noted that August will be the time to finalize and wordsmithing as draft is due internally in September to be prepared for the process of review through MDH Office of Governmental Affairs.

- This is a great time to get other constituents involved in the Workgroup who may have interest and input into remaining research areas.
- Workgroup did not have any changes to make to the work plan or timeline.

III. Next Meeting

- Next Meeting: May 22, 2023, 3:00 p.m
- Discussion Areas
 - Leads: Share collection progress toward 6/1 submission
 - Funding priorities/ structure
- Action Steps
 - Data/research: submit relevant resources and data via email and Share Drive
 - Send email to volunteer for research groups to sara.seitz@maryland.gov

IV. Open Discussion with Public Comment: No guests provided comments during the time dedicated for this purpose.

V. Adjournment: (3:53 p.m.)

Presentation posted to and accessible on the MLARP Stakeholder Workgroup for Nurses and Nursing Support Staff webpage: <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/MLARP-Stakeholder-Workgroup-for-Nurses-and-Nursing-Support-Staff.aspx>